

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-21 remain in the application.

- Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 5. In light of the indicated allowability of claim 5, the amended claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.
- Claims 2-4 and 6-11 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable as well.
- Claim 12 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 13 and of the base claim 1. In light of the indicated allowability of claim 13, the amended claim 12 is now in condition for allowance.
- Claim 14 has been amended by rewriting it in independent form, including the subject matter of claims 1 and 12. In light of the indicated allowability thereof, claim 14 is now in condition for allowance.
- Claim 21 is allowed.

The amendments presented above should not be construed as applicants' acquiescence in the Examiner's rejection of several of the claims over the reference Kameyama et al. (US 5,296,388) under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Instead, the

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amendments are presented in an effort to expedite this application and to bring it to a conclusion. Further applications covering the broader subject matter may still be considered by applicants.

All of the claims are now in condition for allowance. Should any questions remain, counsel would request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that all matters may be resolved at this time.

A Notice of Allowance for claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-21 is solicited.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. The payment for the extra independent claim is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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 REG. NO. 34,956

WHS:bh

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